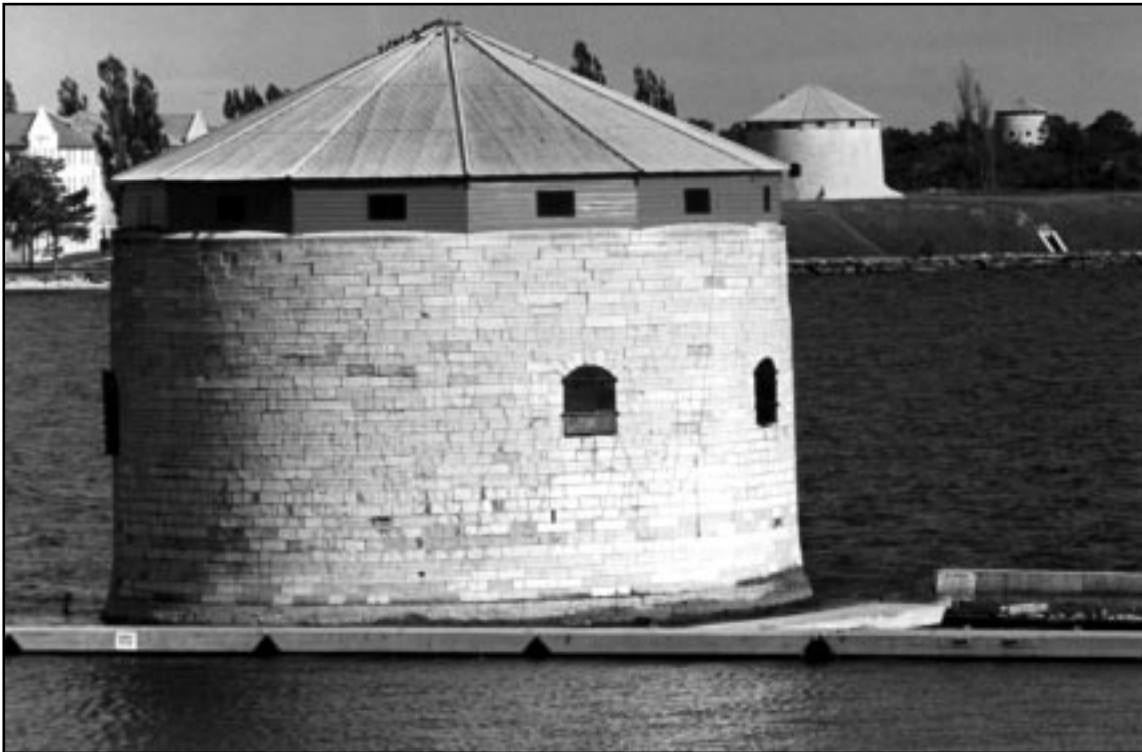




KINGSTON FORTIFICATIONS

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

*Public Review of Draft Management Proposals
to Ensure the Commemorative Integrity of
the Kingston Fortifications*



Help us plan the Future

You are invited to help us develop the first management plan
for the Kingston Fortifications.

We want to hear your views!

Spring 2006



Parks Canada
Parcs Canada

Canada

An Invitation

to Review our Draft Management Proposals

I am pleased to introduce this newsletter which presents proposals for the future management of the Kingston Fortifications National Historic Site of Canada. Although the site consists of five components, Fort Henry, Cathcart Tower, Shoal Tower, Murney Tower and Fort Frederick, these proposals do not include Fort Henry for which a separate management plan is being prepared. The Parks Canada Agency is responsible for the administration of Cathcart, Shoal and Murney towers. The Department of National Defence, responsible for Fort Frederick, has agreed to its inclusion in this planning process to address issues and challenges common to all four towers.

The goal of the proposals contained in this newsletter is to ensure the commemorative integrity of the Kingston Fortifications. Please take a few minutes to read the newsletter and let me know if these proposals represent the right direction to take for the Kingston Fortifications, or if there are alternatives and additional issues that should be considered.

I thank you in advance for helping Parks Canada with the planning for the Kingston Fortifications, a unique system of sites, important not only to Kingstonians, but to all Canadians.



Gavin Liddy

Field Unit Superintendent
Eastern Ontario, Parks Canada

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- Ce bulletin d'information est disponible en français. Téléphonnez pour obtenir votre copie immédiatement au (613) 545-8666, poste 106.
 - Cover photo: Shoal Tower, Fort Frederick and Cathcart Tower, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Brigade Association



Murney Tower, by Lt.Col. John Elgee, c. 1865,
National Army Museum, London

A Few Words About...

PARKS CANADA'S MANDATE

Parks Canada, on behalf of the people of Canada, protects and presents nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage. It administers forty-one national parks (including nearby St. Lawrence Islands National Park of Canada), two national marine conservation areas, and 155 national historic sites that protect valued heritage resources, as well as provide opportunities to the public to appreciate and enjoy them. The sites administered by Parks Canada are part of a "family" of nearly 900 national historic sites across the country, commemorating all aspects of Canada's heritage. There are twenty historic sites in Kingston alone, including the Kingston Fortifications and other landmarks such as Bellevue House and Kingston City Hall.

Parks Canada's objectives for the national historic sites program are:

- *to foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past;*
- *to ensure commemorative integrity of national historic sites by protecting and presenting them for the benefit, education and enjoyment of this and future*

generations, in a manner that respects these places and their associated resources; and

- *to encourage and support the protection and presentation by others of places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada*

COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY

Commemorative integrity describes the health and wholeness of a national historic site. A site possesses commemorative integrity when:

- the resources directly related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site are not impaired or under threat;
- the reasons for designation as a

national historic site are effectively communicated to the public; and

- the site's heritage values are respected in all decisions and actions affecting the site.

HOW TO ENSURE THE COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY OF THE KINGSTON FORTIFICATIONS?

The commemorative integrity of the Kingston Fortifications will be achieved, first, by ensuring the protection and preservation of the site's valued cultural resources and, second, by ensuring that Canadians and visitors understand why the system of fortifications is of national historic significance.





Aerial view of Cathcart Tower on Cedar Island
Parks Canada

Management Planning

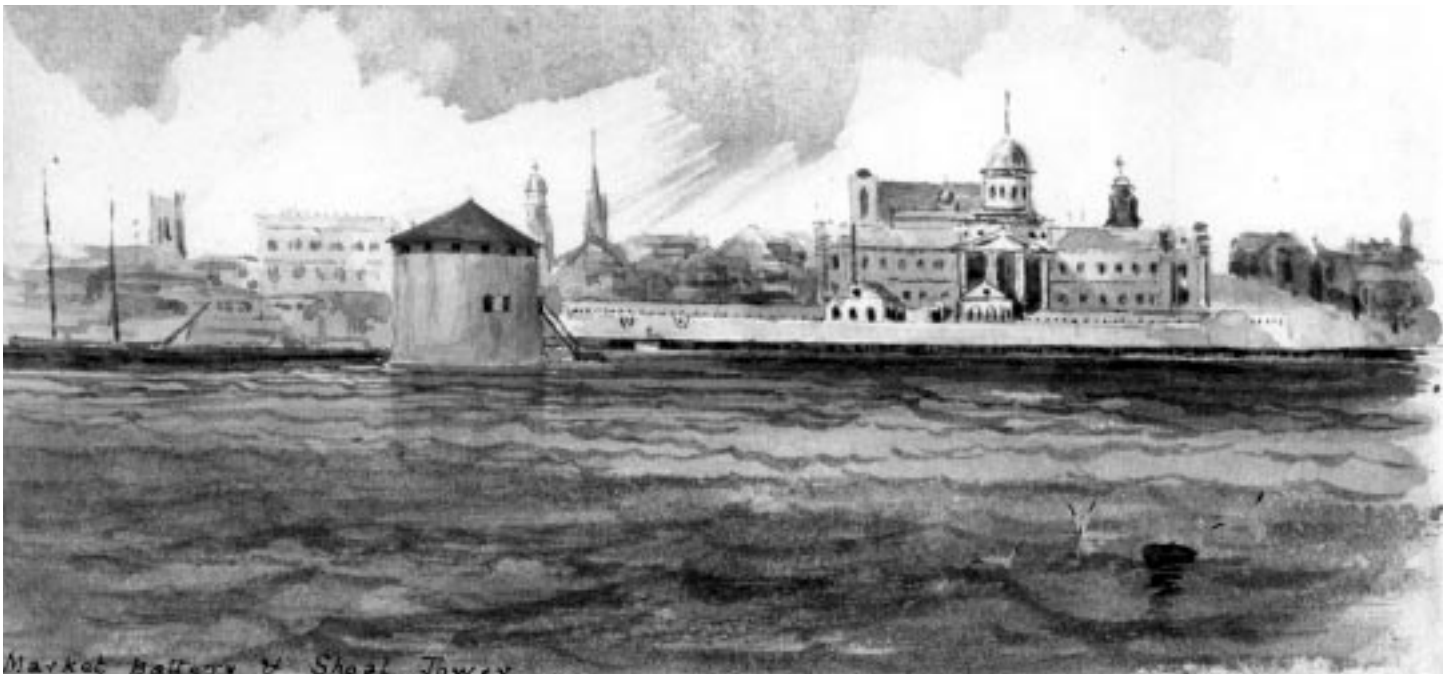
WHAT IS A MANAGEMENT PLAN?

A management plan is a strategic guide to the management of a national historic site. A plan covers subjects such as protecting the site's built heritage resources and working with the community. The primary goal of a management plan is to enable Parks Canada to achieve the site's commemorative integrity (see definition on Page 1).

WHERE ARE WE IN THE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE KINGSTON FORTIFICATIONS?

This newsletter outlines the draft management proposals that have been developed to address site management issues and challenges. Parks Canada will analyse comments on the draft proposals and prepare a draft management plan for review within the Agency.

The final management plan will be submitted to the Minister of the Environment for approval, tabled in Parliament, and then distributed to the public.



Shoal Tower, Market Battery and Kingston City Hall, Lt.Col. John Elgee, c. 1865,
National Army Museum, London

Why are the Kingston Fortifications a National Historic Site?

STATEMENT OF COMMEMORATIVE INTENT

The Kingston Fortifications National Historic Site is a place of national historic significance because:

It is a fortification system consisting of five extant elements - Fort Henry and Fort Frederick along with the Murney, Shoal, and Cathcart Martello Towers - built for the defence of the Kingston Harbour, the southern terminus of the Rideau Canal, the Naval Dockyard and Kingston as a military station.

Those resources directly associated with the Kingston Fortifications dating from the 1832-1870 period are of national historic significance.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Kingston Fortifications cannot be understood without reference to the geographic significance - in both military and commercial terms - of what is now the Kingston Harbour area. A natural harbour, it is situated at the mouth of the Cataraqui River and at the eastern end of Lake Ontario where the St. Lawrence River begins. Before the coming of the railways, water transportation was virtually the only means to move goods and people in or out of the Great Lakes region, and this place was the gateway to the Great Lakes.

With the outbreak of War in 1812, the British built a number of defensive works around the harbour, including blockhouses at Point Henry, Point Frederick and Murney Point, to protect the vitally

important Royal Navy and Provincial Marine depot and dockyard on Navy Bay.

In the years following the war, the town of Kingston evolved into a significant commercial, political, naval and military centre in the colony of Upper Canada. With the completion of the Rideau Canal in 1832, the town's importance as a key transportation hub increased. To protect the southern terminus of this military canal, the British undertook construction of a new

fortification atop Point Henry that was unprecedented in terms of its scale, design and cost, anywhere in British North America west of Quebec City.

By the mid-1840s, Anglo-American tensions were at a critical point over the Oregon boundary and the threat of war with the United States prompted colonial authorities to further strengthen Fort Henry. At the same time, to provide the town, the canal and the dockyards with a more comprehensive defensive system, the British rebuilt Fort Frederick and constructed the Market Battery (the present site of Confederation Park in front of Kingston City Hall) along with Shoal, Murney and Cathcart towers.

Kingston's fortifications were never tested in war, and, within a few years of their construction, the defensive qualities of these



A post card of Shoal Tower and Market Battery, c. 1870. Private Collection.



Cathcart Tower, Parks Canada

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (continued)

imposing structures had been rendered obsolete with the advent of improved artillery. By 1870, the British garrison was gone, never to return, and the fortifications themselves were reduced to serve as training and storage facilities for the fledgling Canadian army.

Five of the six major defensive works survive, and the historic role of the Kingston Fortifications is still clearly evident. Despite some modern development on the waterfront, the four Martello towers remain dominant features that cast dramatic profiles from nearly every perspective in and around the harbour. The collective presence of the towers speaks to the idea of an imposing, defensive system and to the historic

importance of this place that called for such defences.

DESCRIPTION OF THE KINGSTON FORTIFICATIONS

The four towers in Kingston are the most sophisticated Martello towers built in British North America. Their location in a semi-circle around the harbour conveys their essential purpose as defensible platforms for guns. Their large scale and concentration illustrates the strategic importance of Kingston as the citadel of Upper Canada.

The most elaborate of the fortifications is Fort Frederick, located on Point Frederick, the site of the Royal Military College of Canada. The fort consists of a tower and ditch enclosed within an

earthwork and masonry curtain wall. The tower is used as the Royal Military College Museum. Cathcart Tower is located on Cedar Island, which is within St. Lawrence Islands National Park. This fortification consists of the tower, surrounded by a shallow ditch and encompassed by a glacis extending to the shoreline on three sides. Shoal Tower is built on a shoal in front of Kingston City Hall, approximately 30 metres from the shoreline. Murney Tower is built in a point of raised ground south west of the harbour. It has been operated as a museum by the Kingston Historical Society since 1925.

Known archaeological resources include the foundations of various buildings, occupation layers associated with the towers, and the coffer dam surrounding Shoal Tower. There is considerable potential for the existence of additional archaeological features adjacent to Murney, Cathcart and Fort Frederick towers. The moveable historic objects collection consists of a variety of original military equipment located in the towers and in storage.



Murney Tower, Parks Canada



Murney Tower, 1938, Parks Canada Collection

Management Planning Issues

The following are the issues that will be addressed through the management planning program.

- Cathcart Tower needs structural stabilization.
- The heritage character of the towers, including the open space around them and the viewsapes to and from them, could be compromised if inappropriate development and land uses occur nearby.
- The national historic significance of the fortifications as a defensive system is not adequately presented to the public.
- The location and condition of Shoal and Cathcart towers makes their adaptive re-use very challenging.
- A public safety plan is needed for Murney, Shoal and Cathcart towers.
- Parks Canada needs to confirm access over the water lot surrounding Shoal Tower.
- Information on the location, historic value and condition of archaeological sites adjacent to Cathcart and Murney towers is insufficient to ensure their protection.
- There is a need to inventory, evaluate and monitor the condition of moveable objects in the Parks Canada collection from Cathcart, Murney and Shoal towers to ensure their proper conservation.

Aerial view of Shoal Tower, Parks Canada



The Draft Management Proposals to Ensure the Commemorative Integrity of the Kingston Fortifications

The draft management proposals that Parks Canada has developed to fulfill federal responsibilities for the Kingston Fortifications National Historic Site address key challenges such as the maintenance and long-term conservation of the towers, the preservation of their heritage character and the presentation of the reasons for designation as a national historic site.

The introductory section, “Shared Vision of the Kingston Fortifications in 2015,” is a description of the desired future state of the site. The vision statement is an aid to focus thinking on the proposals developed to achieve that future state.

Please read the following pages to determine whether you feel the proposals serve as appropriate management direction for the future of the Kingston Fortifications.

A Shared Vision of the Kingston Fortifications in 2015

By the year 2015 ...

- The long-term protection of the fortifications is assured by Parks Canada and the Department of National Defence (for Fort Frederick) through sound conservation programs.
- The historic setting of the towers is ensured by municipal and federal land use planning and management policies which recognize the need to protect the open space surrounding the towers and the views to and from them.
- Canadians and visitors understand the reasons for the designation of the Kingston Fortifications as a national historic site and appreciate the site’s heritage values.
- Fort Frederick and Murney Tower continue their function as museums providing public access to two of the four towers.
- A strong sense of awareness within the Kingston community, and interest and support for the Kingston Fortifications, contribute to the site’s long-term protection and presentation.
- Parks Canada and the Department of National Defence are recognized for their stewardship of the site.

Draft Management Proposals

ENSURING THE SITE’S COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY

Built Heritage Resources

- Parks Canada and the Department of National Defence will continue their current program of monitoring, maintenance and conservation to protect the historic fabric of their respective towers (Shoal, Murney, Cathcart and Fort Frederick).
- Stabilize Cathcart Tower to prevent further deterioration.
- Continue to provide information on cultural resource management practices and training to the Department of National Defence to promote the conservation of Fort Frederick.
- Manage the built heritage resources in a manner that will ensure their integrity and promote respect for and understanding of their historic values.



Royal Military College of Canada Museum
in Fort Frederick
Photo courtesy of DND

Cultural Landscapes

- Develop an historic landscape conservation study in consultation with the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, the City of Kingston, the Department of National Defence, St. Lawrence Islands National Park and the Kingston Historical Society. The study will provide landscape conservation guidelines that will:
 - identify the desirable conditions of the adjacent lands to reflect the 19th century military function of the towers as components of the Kingston Fortifications;
 - provide recommendations for the management of surrounding properties to facilitate municipal and federal planning and land use management decisions concerning the conservation of the cultural landscapes that reflect the 19th century military function of the towers as components of the Kingston Fortifications;
 - provide a viewscape assessment that will identify the view planes to and from the towers and Fort Henry that are essential to the public's understanding of their function;
 - address the protection of the heritage character of the associated landscape of

Cathcart Tower, which is located on Cedar Island, within the boundaries of St. Lawrence Islands National Park of Canada.

Archaeological Sites

- Undertake an inventory of archaeological sites adjacent to Cathcart Tower and Murney Tower and share the information with the City of Kingston to encourage protection of the archaeological resources associated with Murney Tower located in Macdonald Park.
- Continue the exchange of information, with the Department of National Defence, on archaeological matters for the protection of archaeological sites at Fort Frederick.
- Evaluate the historic value of archaeological resources and establish a monitoring program.
- Secure a heritage easement to ensure the protection of underwater archaeological sites associated with Shoal Tower.



Aerial view of Fort Frederick, Parks Canada



Murney Tower, c. 1905, Parks Canada Collection

Draft Management Proposals *(continued)*

Historic Objects:

- Undertake an inventory and evaluation of all objects under the stewardship of Parks Canada associated with Shoal, Murney and Cathcart towers.
- Monitor in situ objects and carry out conservation where needed.

HERITAGE PRESENTATION

- Produce an interpretive plan to identify approaches to convey the messages of national significance.
- Continue working with the St. Lawrence Parks Commission to convey the national historic

significance of the Kingston Fortifications at Fort Henry.

- Continue working with the City of Kingston, the Department of National Defence and the Kingston Historical Society to convey the national historic significance of the Kingston Fortifications.

MANAGEMENT OF SHOAL, MURNEY AND CATHCART TOWERS

- As part of the transfer of the water lot for Confederation Basin from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to the City of Kingston, Parks Canada will

obtain an easement to provide for access to Shoal Tower.

- Parks Canada will prepare a public safety plan to identify and address risks and threats to public safety at Murney, Cathcart and Shoal towers.
- Shoal and Cathcart towers are currently closed. Parks Canada will continue its monitoring and long-term maintenance program. Parks Canada has no funds to restore and open the towers to the public but would be open to proposals from others for their future use.

ENGAGING CANADIANS AND WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

- Strengthen the sense of community pride in the Kingston Fortifications, and foster a sustained interest in long-term protection of the site.
- Foster the role and stature of the Kingston Fortifications as a heritage attraction of national historic significance.



Aerial view of Murney Tower, Parks Canada

What Happens Next?

1. Public Consultation

On May 25, 2006, we will hold an open house in Kingston (see details on next page). You are invited to meet with members of the planning team and discuss the draft management proposals presented in this newsletter.

2. Review Comments Received

After this consultation, we will analyze the comments received.

3. Write the Management Plan

We will write the management plan using information gathered from the public consultation.

4. Approval of the Management Plan

The management plan will be submitted to the Minister of the Environment for approval and, once approved, will be tabled in Parliament, and then distributed to the public.



Aerial view of Shoal Tower and Kingston City Hall, Parks Canada

PLEASE SHARE YOUR VIEWS WITH US.

PROVIDE US WITH YOUR COMMENTS

You can mail the attached comment sheet. Please send us your comments by June 15, 2006.

ATTEND THE OPEN HOUSE

We invite you to visit us at the open house to be held at Memorial Hall, Kingston City Hall, on May 25, 2006. The open house will be from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WRITE OR EMAIL

You can write a letter or send an email telling us your views. We would appreciate receiving your comments by June 15, 2006.

Please forward your comments to the National Historic Sites Program Manager at the following address:

John Grenville
National Historic Sites Program Manager
35 Centre Street
Kingston, ON, K7L 4E5
Tel: (613) 545-8666, extension 102
Fax: (613) 545-8721
Email: john.grenville@pc.gc.ca

How Can You Get More Information?

CONTACT US

If you would like to get more information about Parks Canada programs or about the Kingston Fortifications National Historic Site, you may contact us as noted above.

SURF THE WEB

You may visit our website for general information on Parks Canada at:
www.parkscanada.gc.ca

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